

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



292571

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**SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY OIL SPILL, GARY, LAKE COUNTY, IN****POLREP: POLREP 1****RESPONSE AUTHORITY: OPA****NPL STATUS: NON-NPL****START DATE: 06/23/92****1. SITUATION:**

ON JUNE 23, 1992, THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA), AND ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (TAT) CONTRACTOR RESPONDED TO A REPORT BY GARY AIR & LAND POLLUTION CONTROL (GALPC) OF AN OIL SPILL ALONG A DITCH BANK BORDERING THE GARY REGIONAL AIRPORT (GRA) ALONG INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY IN GARY, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA. AN OIL SHEEN WAS OBSERVED ON THE WATERWAY (DITCH) SURFACE AND A THICK OIL LAYER WAS NOTICED ALONG THE DITCH BANKS. THE WATERWAY LEADS DOWNSTREAM AND EVENTUALLY DISCHARGES TO THE GRAND CALUMET RIVER JUST SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT. TAT COLLECTED TWO SAMPLES OF THE OIL PHASE FROM THE DITCH WATERWAY AND PLACED A CONTAINMENT BOOM ON THE WATERWAY TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION OF THE OIL DOWNSTREAM. THE SAMPLES WERE ANALYZED FOR PCBS AND OIL AND GREASE. GRA AND GALPC OFFICIALS ALSO ASSISTED WITH RESPONSE EFFORTS. INITIAL RESPONSE EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE SPILL WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND WORK WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE SAMPLE RESULTS WERE RECEIVED. THE U.S. EPA NOTIFIED THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) TO ACTIVATE THE OIL POLLUTION ACT (OPA) FUND TO CONDUCT A CLEAN-UP OF THE SPILL.

**2. ACTION TAKEN:**

ON JUNE 29, 1992, THE U.S. EPA MET WITH TAT AND THE OPA CLEAN-UP CONTRACTOR, CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE. TAT UTILIZED A METAL DETECTOR TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE POTENTIAL BURIED LINES AND CULVERTS UNDER A GRA SERVICE ROAD WHICH MAY CONTAIN OIL AND LEAD INTO THE DITCH WATERWAY AND TO LOCATE THE EXTENT AND SOURCE OF THE SPILL. AT 0830 HOURS ON JUNE 30, SITE CLEAN-UP WAS INITIATED. THE RESPONSE TEAM OF U.S. EPA, TAT, GRA, GALPC, AND THE OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR HELD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND VISUALLY INSPECTED THE SHORELINE OF THE DITCH AND NOTICED OIL SHEEN ON THE WATER AND THE BANKS. NO APPARENT SPILL SOURCE WAS FOUND, BUT VISUAL EVIDENCE INDICATED THE OIL MAY HAVE MIGRATED UNDERGROUND FROM A NEARBY U.S. EPA SUPERFUND SITE. THE U.S. EPA ON-SCENE COORDINATOR (OSC) REQUESTED THE OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO THE SPILL. A RESPONSE UNIT BEGAN TO PLACE ABSORBENT BOOMS AND PADS ON THE WATERWAY AND USING A SKID-MOUNTED VACUUM SUCKER TO COLLECT OIL FROM THE WATER SURFACE. A TRACKHOE EXCAVATOR WAS USED TO CLEAR AWAY OIL-CONTAMINATED SOIL AND DEBRIS FROM ALONG THE DITCH BANKS. SOIL AND DEBRIS WAS PLACED ON A PLASTIC LINER NEAR THE WORK AREA USING A DUMP TRUCK. THE OSC CEASED RESPONSE EFFORTS FOR THE DAY AT 1630 HOURS.

### 3. FUTURE ACTIONS:

- CONTINUE TO SKIM/COLLECT OIL FROM THE WATERWAY SURFACE.
- EXCAVATE OIL-CONTAMINATED SOIL AND DEBRIS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE WATERWAY AND STAGE ONTO PLASTIC-LINED SOIL PILE.
- CONTAIN ALL OIL ON WATERWAY USING SORBENT BOOMS AND PADS TO PREVENT FURTHER MIGRATION.
- SAMPLE AND ARRANGE DISPOSAL FOR OIL-CONTAMINATED SOIL AND DEBRIS.
- CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION OF THE SPILL SOURCE.

### 4. ESTIMATED COSTS

	<u>CEILING</u>	<u>EST. COSTS</u>	<u>EST. AMOUNT REMAINING</u>
OPA CLEANUP CONTRACTOR	\$45,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$41,500.00

NOTE: PROJECT COSTS WILL BE UPDATED ONCE FINAL CONTRACTOR BILLING HAS BEEN RECEIVED.